

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-8, 12-14, 16, 18 and 19 are amended, claims 2 and 15 are canceled and claims 21-25 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Election Restriction Requirement

The Examiner is thanked for the withdrawal of the Election Requirement.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1 and 14 for containing minor informalities. By this Amendment, the claims have been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,988,990 to Lee (hereinafter Lee '990), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,252,035 to Lee (hereinafter Lee '035). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a suction muffler connector which includes a connection spring and a connection pipe. Claim 1 recites that the connection spring has one

side connected to a suction pipe of a compressor. Claim 1 further recites that the connection pipe is fitted to surround the connection spring for preventing exposure of an outside surface of the connection spring. Claim 1 further recites that the connection spring includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the connection pipe.

The Office Action acknowledges that Lee '990 fails to teach a connection spring which is surrounded by a connection pipe. However, the Office Action asserts that Lee '035 teaches a connection pipe 23 which surrounds a connection spring 26, wherein the combination of the connection pipe 23 and the connection spring 7 are inserted into the inlet of a suction muffler of a compressor.

Amended claim 1 now recites that the connection spring includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the connection pipe. Examples of such a structure can be found in Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application. Fig. 4 shows an enlarged part 210a of the spring which extends below the lower edge of the connection pipe 220. Fig. 5 shows that the enlarged part 210a of the connection spring 210 is lodged within a holding part 220a at the bottom of the connection pipe 220.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Lee '990 or Lee '035 disclose or suggest a suction muffler connector wherein a connection pipe surrounds a connection spring, and wherein the connection spring includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the connection pipe. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 4 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. In addition, the dependent claims recite other features which are also not shown or suggested by Lee '035 or Lee '990. For instance, claim 13 recites that the connection spring has an upper part that extends beyond an upper end of the connection pipe, into and inside of the section muffler. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 13 and 14 over Lee '990, in view of Lee '035, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 2, 3, 5-12 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lee '990, in view of Lee '035, and further in view of Tack (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,788). As noted above, claims 2 and 15 have been canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 5-12 depend from claim 1, and claims 15-20 depend from claim 14. As noted above, Lee '990 and Lee '035 fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1 and 14. Tack fails to cure the deficiencies of Lee '990 and Lee '035. Specifically, Tack also fails to disclose or suggest a suction muffler connector which includes a connection spring and a connection pipe that surrounds the connection spring, wherein the connection spring includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the connection pipe. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5-12 and 15-20 are also allowable over the references of record.

In addition, the dependent claims recited additional features which are also not shown or suggested by Lee '990, Lee '035 and Tack. For instance, claims 3 and 16 recite that the connection pipe includes a holding part having an annular recess for holding the enlarged part of the connection spring. Claim 13 recites that the connection spring has an upper part that extends beyond an upper end of the connection pipe and into an inside of the suction muffler. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable for these additional reasons. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 5-12 and 16-20 is respectfully requested.

IV. Claims 21-25

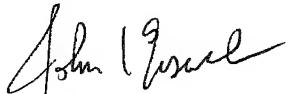
By this Amendment, new claims 21-25 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-25 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above, and for the additional features which they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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